

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 3, 2014

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

**Assembly Concurrent Resolution**

**No. 83**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Buchanan**  
***(Coauthor: Assembly Member Levine)***

January 14, 2014

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Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 83—Relative to Alcohol Awareness Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

ACR 83, as amended, Buchanan. Alcohol Awareness Month.

This measure would proclaim the month of April 2014 as Alcohol Awareness Month in California.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Alcohol is the most commonly used addictive  
2 substance in the United States; and  
3 WHEREAS, One in every 12 adults in the United States (17.6  
4 million people) suffer from alcohol abuse or dependence; and  
5 WHEREAS, Nationwide, 100,000 persons die each year from  
6 alcohol-related causes, including, but not limited to, drinking and  
7 driving crashes, other accidents, falls, fires, alcohol-related  
8 homicides, and suicides; and  
9 WHEREAS, Alcohol-related problems cost the United States  
10 \$224 billion (\$746 per person) in lost productivity, absenteeism,  
11 health care costs, crime, and family-related problems; and  
12 WHEREAS, In 2012, 28 percent of all traffic deaths in  
13 California were a result of drinking and driving; and

1 WHEREAS, In 2010, underage drinking in California cost the  
2 state and its citizens \$6.8 billion, including medical care and lost  
3 time at work; and

4 WHEREAS, Young people who begin drinking before 15 years  
5 of age are four times more likely to develop alcohol dependence  
6 than those who begin drinking at 21 years of age; ~~now, therefore,~~  
7 ~~be it and~~

8 WHEREAS, *Alcohol Justice and Writers in Treatment* are  
9 coproducing the REEL Recovery Film Festival—San Francisco  
10 Bay Area Edition, April 24 to 27, 2014, inclusive, to more publicly  
11 and effectively bring alcoholism and addiction out of the closet,  
12 reduce the stigma, and raise public awareness that it is not a moral  
13 failing but a devastating disease that, like other potentially fatal  
14 diseases, requires specialized treatment, and to encourage public  
15 policy advocacy for the prevention of alcohol and other  
16 drug-related harm; and

17 WHEREAS, Screening for Mental Health, Inc., will hold  
18 National Alcohol Screening Day (NASD) on April 10, 2014, as an  
19 outreach, education, and screening program that will raise  
20 awareness about alcohol misuse and refers individuals with alcohol  
21 problems for further treatment, and since the inception of NASD  
22 in 1999, thousands of colleges, universities, community-based  
23 organizations, and military installations provide the program to  
24 the public each year; and

25 WHEREAS, The National Council on Alcoholism and Drug  
26 Dependence, Inc. is Alcohol Awareness Month, held every April,  
27 increases public awareness and understanding aimed at reducing  
28 the stigma associated with alcoholism that too often prevents  
29 individuals and families from seeking help; ~~and now, therefore,~~  
30 ~~be it~~

31 Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate  
32 thereof concurring, That the Legislature joins the National Council  
33 on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, Inc. and hereby recognizes  
34 April 2014 as Alcohol Awareness Month in California, and calls  
35 upon all citizens, parents, governmental agencies, public and  
36 private institutions, businesses, hospitals, schools, and colleges in  
37 California to support efforts that will reduce stigma, increase  
38 community awareness, and increase support for individuals and  
39 families coping with alcoholism; and be it further

- 1     *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
- 2     of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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